

Coral Reef

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Coral Reefs: Overview

- Coral reefs are beautiful marine structures formed by the polyps of a group of marine animals called coral.
- Coral reefs are formed in shallow waters of tropical oceans, and are the most diverse marine ecosystem on the planet, with over 3,500 species living in them.
- Coral reefs are under threat from global warming, ocean acidification, and pollution. The oceans absorb about a quarter of the carbon dioxide produced by humans, which causes the pH of the oceans to drop.
- This makes it harder for coral to extract calcium carbonate from the water to build their skeletons.

Coral Reefs: Advantages

- Coral reefs provide a home to thousands of marine species.
- Coral reefs are a source of food for millions of people.
- Coral reefs are a source of income through tourism.

Dangers to Coral Reefs

- Overfishing
- Pollution
- Acidification